

OUTGOING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH

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AMLEGATION

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A-41 Mar 22, 1950

Reference Despatch 53, February 8, 1950.

It is noted that according to Al-Hayat the draft Lebanese labor law to regulate the employment of foreign nationals in Lebanon recognizes the right of a foreigner to work in Lebanon only on the condition that he has resided five consecutive years in the country. If such a provision of law were enacted to apply to American citizens the law would apparently be in conflict with the proposed US-Lebanon FCH treaty, particularly Article VII, paragraph 1, which accords national treatment in such matters, and paragraph 4, which gives either Party the right to employ within the territories of the other Party whomever he chooses, ~~not subject to national laws~~. If you deem it appropriate and not prejudicial to the treaty negotiations, it is suggested you call this to the attention of appropriate Lebanese authorities. You might also point out that private investment and technical assistance to Lebanon in economic development programs would be hindered by restrictive measures limiting the rights of employment of foreign nationals.

Please inform the Department whether there will be any American firms, or Americans working in non-American firms, affected by this provision in the event the law is approved.

Acheson
AIRGRAM UNIT: Please Report to Cairo

NEA:ANE:BJDenning/ucl
3-17-50

Cleared with NEA -
Mr. Handley

Cleared with
Labor Dept.
Mr. Arling

State Department review completed

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